



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2010

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Rainfall and Inflows

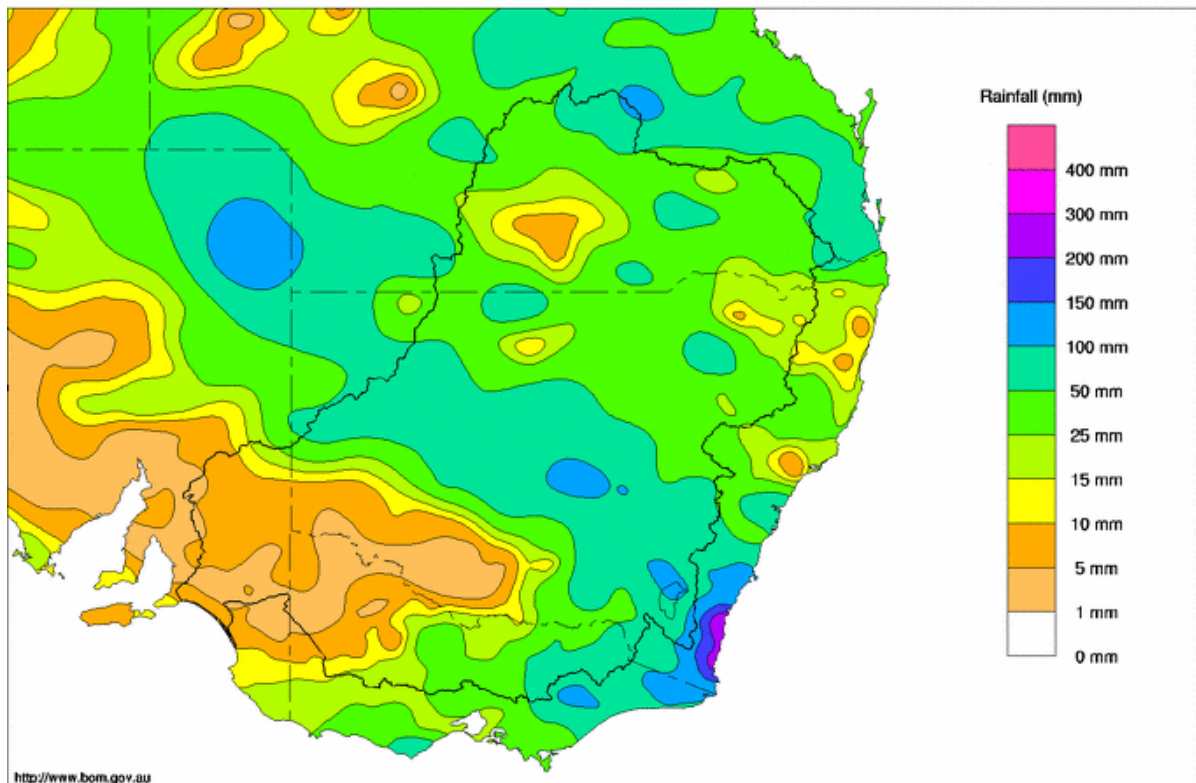
During the past week good rainfall was recorded across central and western NSW with Trevallyn station (on the Darling downstream of Tilpa) receiving 120 mm and Wilcannia around 100 mm. There were also good falls in the upper north east of Victoria where Falls Creek and Hinnomunjie recorded 110 and 135 mm respectively. Unfortunately, both the Ovens and Kiewa catchments in northern Victoria received less rain. For example, Bright received 57 mm and Rocky Point 49 mm..

As a result, streamflows in the upper Murray and Mitta Mitta regions increased, with Biggara on the upper Murray rising from around 280 to 2,400 ML/day, and at Hinnomunjie, on the Mitta Mitta River the flow rose from 250 to 2,080 ML/day. However, at Rocky Point on the Ovens River the flow rose from around 390 to only 680 ML/day.

In the northern Basin, streamflow response to the weekend's rain in upper western NSW has, in comparison to the Christmas – New Year event, been relatively small. However, this latest rainfall event will help boost streamflows in the Barwon–Darling. For instance, at Bourke on the Darling River the flow rose from about 2,000 to 3,500 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 17th February 2010

Product of the National Climate Centre



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River Operations

MDBA active storage (which currently excludes Menindee Lakes) increased over the week by 9 GL to 1874 GL (22% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir was steady at 1,189 GL (30% capacity) and is expected to remain steady over the coming weeks. The release (which is targeting a flow at Tallandoon of 600 ML/day) was decreased from 560 to 440 ML/day in response to the rain but will increase back to around 560 ML/day during this week.

Total storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 17 GL to 552 GL (18% capacity) and will continue to decrease over the coming weeks. The target flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Reservoir and the Kiewa River) has been steady during the week at around 8500 - 9000 ML/day.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is 124.67 m AHD (or 23 cm below FSL) and is expected to rise in the next few days to around 124.7 m AHD. The release from Yarrowonga Weir has been reduced to 6,000 ML/day in response to the additional water entering the Murray from the Darling River.

The target release from Stevens Weir on the Edward River is being gradually reduced over the coming week from 1,600 ML/day to 800 ML/day, in line with the reduction in flows down the Murray River.

Further downstream on the Murray, Torrumbarry and Euston Weirs are both close to Full Supply Level and the release from Euston Weir has increased from 5,750 to around 6,200 ML/day. The Torrumbarry Weir release has decreased from about 5,700 to 4,800 ML/day. As a result of decreasing flows from upstream, both releases are expected to fall in the coming weeks.

Total storage in Menindee Lakes (which remain under NSW control) increased by 115 GL to 584 GL (34% capacity) and will continue to increase during the week. In response to local rainfall at and upstream of Menindee Lakes, the release has been increased to around 16,000 ML/d. At this flow, about 3,000 to 4,000 ML/day will be flowing into the Great Darling Anabranch. Downstream at Burtundy, on the lower Darling River, the flow has fallen from 9,670 to around 8,770 ML/day but is expected to rise again in the coming weeks as the higher releases from Menindee arrive. The total flow past Burtundy since 27 February has been around 160 GL.

The release from Wentworth Weir on the Murray has been reasonably steady over the past week at around 12,400 ML/day and will decline slightly over the coming week before increasing again as the higher releases from Menindee arrive. At this stage it is expected that the peak release at Wentworth Weir will be around 14,000 ML/day in around 3 week's time.

Total storage in Lake Victoria has increased by 26 GL to 343 GL (51% capacity) and will continue to rise in coming weeks. The flow to South Australia for the past week has averaged around 8,250 ML/day and the flow over Lock 1, which is providing high inflows to the Lower Lakes, has averaged 4,250 ML/day.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina has continued to rise slowly due to increased inflows and reduced evaporation rates, and is now at -0.88 m AHD. The water level in Goolwa Channel has again decreased slightly from +0.13 to +0.09 m AHD. The water level in Lake Albert has remained fairly steady at -0.73 m AHD.

The Murray and Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committees have issued an Algal Alert Bulletin for the Murray River, extending the red alert for blue-green algae (see attached media release).

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murra

Week ending Wednesday 17 Feb 2010

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	429.77	1 189	30%	80	1 109	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.93	552	18%	30	522	-17
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.97	343	51%	100	243	+26
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		584	34%	(- -) #	0	+115
Total		9 352		2 668	29%	--	1 874	+124

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBA Storage = **22%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	451	44%	3	448	+64
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	524	32%	24	500	+39
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	955	29%	100	855	-11

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 16-Feb-2010

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	921	-26	Snowy-Murray	+23	549
Snowy-Murray Component	655	-4	Tooma-Tumut	+6	242
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	16.7	307
			Murray 1 Release	+20	772

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2009	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2009
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.7	147	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2.4	102
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.6	46	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.5	174
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	19	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.4	90
Licensed Pumps	2.0	70	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	11
Lower Darling	0.2	6	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.0	189
TOTAL	8.4	288	TOTAL	21.5	566

* Figures derived from Estimates and Monthly Data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

** All Data is rounded to nearest 100 ML for the above**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	(8 300 ML/day)
Flow this week	57.8	
Flow so far this month	147	
Flow last month	232	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2009
Swan Hill	60	60	60
Euston	80	90	90
Red Cliffs	100	90	100
Merbein	110	110	100
Burtundy (Darling)	190	170	510
Lock 9	140	140	140
Lake Victoria	190	170	200
Berri	190	200	330
Waikerie	240	240	440
Morgan	250	230	520
Mannum	400	420	620
Murray Bridge	510	540	690
Milang (Lake Alex)	6 140	6 120	5 550
Poltalloch (Lake Alex)	5 070	4 700	5 080
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	14 090	15 840	11 240
Goolwa Barrages	13 870	13 560	13 460

Week ending Wednesday 17 Feb 2010

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	5 270	F	3 580	4 910
Jingellic	4.0	2.03	208.55	7 450	R	4 950	3 910
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.45	218.34	570	F	630	590
Heywoods	5.5	2.51	156.14	8 340	R	7 630	8 410
Doctors Point	5.5	2.50	150.97	9 080	R	8 480	9 060
Albury	4.3	1.49	148.93	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.90	127.92	7 770	R	7 930	9 530
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.20	116.24	6 530	F	7 270	8 160
Tocumwal	6.4	1.80	105.64	7 430	F	7 690	8 460
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.67	80.22	4 790	F	5 410	5 170
Swan Hill	4.5	1.10	64.02	5 210	F	5 250	4 690
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.59	51.71	6 540	R	6 180	5 920
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.40	43.24	6 230	R	5 780	5 900
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 280	F	4 490	5 250
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.59	28.35	12 250	F	12 610	12 250
Rufus Junction	-	3.64	20.57	7 600	R	7 500	8 030
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.24	-	4 020	R	4 080	5 850
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.88	154.11	410	R	450	260
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.92	145.60	670	R	460	350
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.28	92.70	610	F	630	670
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.56	81.33	1 380	F	1 500	1 840
Edward at Liewah	-	2.35	57.73	1 740	R	1 630	1 490
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.18	54.67	110	S	100	100
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.67	56.63	370	R	380	380
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	10	F	50	90
Darling at Bourke	-	4.51	-	3 340	F	2 200	3 440
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	4.69	-	8 770	S	9 290	8 900

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 140	1 350
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (mAHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.23	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.01	+1.35
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+0.13
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.28
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.93
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.95	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.32
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.27
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.01	+1.44	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.04	-0.99

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-3.65	1.297	70.647	1274
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-14.60	0.675	61.975	829

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.88

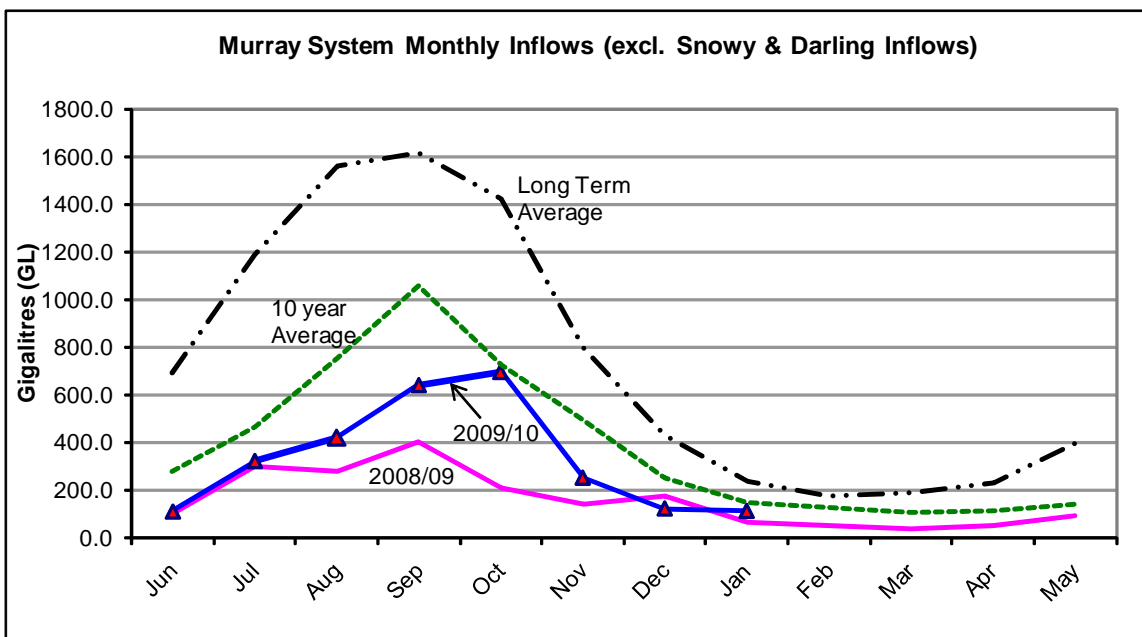
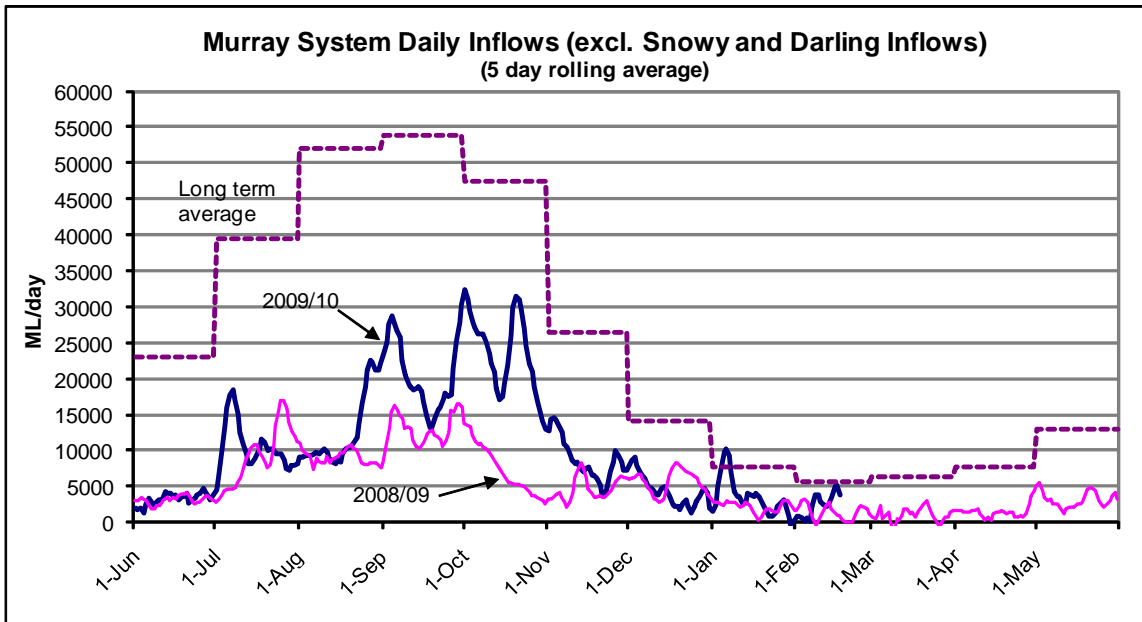
Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (mAHD)	Status	Fishways	
				Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.09	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed



Week ending Wednesday 17th February 2010



State Allocations (as at 17th February 2010)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	19%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	63%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	20%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	58%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	55%
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NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx>

VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>

SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>

Algal Alert Bulletin

Murray and Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committees

Monday 15 February 2010

Red alert extended for Murray River

Deputy Chair of the Murray Regional Algal Coordinating Committee (MRACC), Natasha Ryan, today said the red alert for blue-green algae in the Murray River had been extended.

“New results in today have revealed the presence of high levels of potentially toxic blue-green algae in the Murray River from Hume Dam to Cobram,” Ms Ryan said.

“The NSW Office of Water has also received some very high amber alert results for the stretch of the Murray River from Cobram to Moama and for the Edward River at Deniliquin and in the Gulpa Creek at Mathoura.”

“While these are not in the red alert range yet, the results indicate that this trigger could be reached very quickly, therefore we are issuing a pre-cautionary alert for these areas also.”

A red alert level warning indicates that waters are unsuitable for recreational use or primary contact by domestic users and may also pose a threat to livestock and domestic animals.

Town water supply authorities have been informed and are treating town water supply with powered activated carbon for both NSW and Victorian consumers; however, raw water drawn from these areas should be avoided for all purposes.

“The species of blue-green algae identified are potentially toxic and may cause gastroenteritis in humans if consumed and skin and eye irritations after contact. Boiling the water does not inactivate algal toxins,” said Ms Ryan.

Local residents and visitors should avoid any water that appears bright green, where obvious green scums are present, or a distinctive odour is noticeable. Blue-green algae are usually very obvious, appearing as clumps or specs in the water and are often associated with a strong musty or earthy odour.

People are advised not to enter the water, and are further advised not to drink untreated water or bathe in water drawn from the river whilst a Red Alert warning is in place.

Livestock owners are reminded to continue to check stock water supplies for blue-green algae and to remove stock from foreshores where surface scums are visible or blue-green algae are suspected.

There is some evidence that small quantities of algal toxins may enter fish flesh when a bloom produces toxins. Any fish caught in water affected by a bloom should be cleaned and

washed thoroughly in uncontaminated water and any internal organs disposed of before consumption.

People should not eat mussels, crayfish or the internal organs of fish from red alert areas. Toxins might also taint fish flesh and when a bloom is toxic common sense indicates finfish should not be eaten.

Information updates about blue-green algae blooms and Red Alert areas can be obtained from the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee freecall Algal Information Hotline on 1800 999 457 or visit www.water.nsw.gov.au

ENDS